



State Library of Massachusetts - Special Collections Department

Ms. Coll. 4

Marshall Spring Stearns and Stearns Family Papers, 1862-1863: Guide

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator: Stearns, Marshall Spring, 1824-1903

Call Number: Ms. Coll. 4

Extent: 1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Preferred Citation Style: *Folder Title, Box Number #.* Marshal Spring Stearns and Stearns Family Papers. State Library of Massachusetts Special Collections.

Provenance: Collection received from State Archives, September 1981.

About This Finding Aid: Description based on DACS.

Processed by: Finding aid prepared by Marc Widershien, December 31, 1984. Updated by Abigail Cramer, March, 2012.

Abstract: This collection documents Marshall Stearns and his family while he was a Lieutenant with the Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection includes letters written by Stearns to both his wife and friends while he was 2nd Lieutenant, Company F, 52nd Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (1862-1863). There are also letters concerning his service in the regiment, the transport of the regiment to Louisiana and his duties as Superintendent of Governments Laborers in charge of a camp of freed slaves including the operation of the camp. There are also two books in the collection: "Three Centuries

of the Stearns Family, 1600-1900,” and “What the Stearns Family was Like,” both by Ethel F. Jackson. The Stearns collection also includes a family genealogy and information on the activities of family members, as derived from their correspondence.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Marshall Spring Stearns was born on November 25, 1824, to Calvin and Statyra (Richardson) Stearns of Northfield, Massachusetts. In 1850 Stearns joined the gold rush to California and returned to Northfield in 1861. He married Sula L. Hillard of Northfield Farms on December 21, 1861. Marshall Stearns enlisted and helped raise Company F, 52nd Regiment and was commissioned 2nd Lieutenant on September 11, 1862, and mustered on October 11 of that year. On August 14, 1863, he was mustered out. By trade, he was a carpenter, tanner and currier. His wife died February 13, 1876; he lived until December 12, 1903. He had four children.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research during the Special Collections Department’s regular hours.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Special Collections staff.

Languages and Scripts

The collection is entirely in English.

Custodial History

Gift to the State Archives from Ethel F. Jackson in 1968.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The Special Collections department received this collection from the State Archives in September, 1981.

Container List

Folder #	Folder Title	Date
1-4	Correspondence (4 folders)	October 1862-July 1863
5	<i>Three Centuries of the Stearns Family, 1600-1900</i>	undated
6	<i>What the Stearns Family was Like</i>	undated